

d. means for diverging the fourth laser output in a first direction to create a fifth laser output;

e. a scanning mirror coupled to the fifth laser output, the scanning mirror reflecting the fifth laser output to create a line illumination; and

f. a depolarizing screen illuminated by the line illumination, the scanning mirror repeatedly scanning the line illumination across a portion of the depolarizing screen such that the means for switching maintains the first optical path length for a first scan, switches to the second optical path length for a second scan, and alternates between the first optical path length and the second optical path length for subsequent scans.

---

30 47. A method of reducing laser speckle comprising the steps of:

a. dividing a first polarized laser output into a second polarized laser output and a third polarized laser output, the second polarized laser output and the third polarized laser output having orthogonal polarizations and having intensities that are about equal;

b. switching between a first optical path length and a second optical path length for the second polarized laser output, a difference between the first optical path length and the second optical path length being about an odd multiple of a half wavelength of the first polarized laser output;

c. combining the second polarized laser output and the third polarized laser output into a fourth laser output;

d. diverging the fourth laser output in a first direction;

e. scanning the fourth laser output in a second direction across a portion of a depolarizing screen in a first scan with the first optical path length, in a second scan with the second optical path length, and in subsequent scans alternating between the first optical path length and the second optical path length, the second direction being orthogonal to the first direction.

---

Version of Amended Claims To Show Changes Made:

44. (Amended) An apparatus for reducing laser speckle comprising:

- a. means for dividing a first polarized laser output into a second polarized laser output and a third polarized laser output, the second polarized laser output and the third polarized laser output having orthogonal polarizations and having intensities that are about equal;
- b. means for switching between a first optical path length and a second optical path length[s] for the second polarized laser output, a difference between the first optical path length and the second optical path length[s] being about an odd multiple of a half wavelength of the first polarized laser output;
- c. means for combining the second polarized laser output and the third polarized laser output into a fourth laser output;
- d. means for diverging the fourth laser output in a first direction to create a fifth laser output;
- e. a scanning mirror coupled to the fifth laser output, the scanning mirror reflecting the fifth laser output to create a line illumination; and
- f. a depolarizing screen illuminated by the line illumination, the scanning mirror repeatedly scanning the line illumination across a portion of the depolarizing screen such that the means for switching maintains the first optical path length for a first scan, switches to the second optical path length for a second scan, and alternates between the first optical path length and the second optical path length[s] for subsequent scans.

47. (Amended) A method of reducing laser speckle comprising the steps of:

- a. dividing a first polarized laser output into a second polarized laser output and a third polarized laser output, the second polarized laser output and the third polarized laser output having orthogonal polarizations and having intensities that are about equal;
- b. switching between a first optical path length and a second optical path length[s] for the second polarized laser output, a difference between the first optical path length and the second optical path length[s] being about an odd multiple of a half wavelength of the first polarized laser output;

- c. combining the second polarized laser output and the third polarized laser output into a fourth laser output;
- d. diverging the fourth laser output in a first direction;
- e. scanning the fourth laser output in a second direction across a portion of a depolarizing screen in a first scan with the first optical path length, in a second scan with the second optical path length, and in subsequent scans alternating between the first optical path length and the second optical path length[s], the second direction being orthogonal to the first direction.